

REMARKS

The final Office action dated August 14, 2007, and the references cited therein have been received and carefully reviewed.

As a result of the final Office Action, claims 1-10 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamaoka II in view Ooki; 1-9, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19-22, and 27-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki in view of Schroeder; claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki in view of Schroeder and further in view of ordinary skill in the art; and claims 18, 23, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki in view of Schroeder and further in view of Hamaoka II.

The cited references are not believed to disclose or suggest Applicants' invention as now claimed, and favorable reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is therefore respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

By the above amendments, claims 1-13 and 15-24 have been canceled. Furthermore, claims 27, 30, and 31 have been amended and are now believed to be patentable over the prior art. More specifically, Applicants respectfully submit that

none of the cited prior art references, taken individually or in combination, disclose a rotational angle detecting device that includes the limitations that (1) *each magnet has an arc-shaped configuration along a circumferential direction*, (2) *each magnet has opposite end faces each having a first surface and a second surface respectively inclined relative to the inner circumferential surface and the outer circumferential surface of the magnet by an obtuse angle*, and (3) *the magnetoresistive sensor comprises an IC having a magnetoresistive element and a self-contained control unit*, as required by claims 27, 30, and 31.

The feature shown in (1) above was present in claim 6, now canceled.

The features shown in (2) above were present in claims 8 and 18, now canceled. These features lessen the potential damage during machining or forming operations of the magnets, and facilitate the assembly operation of the rotational angle detection device (see paragraph [0041] of the specification).

The features shown in (3) above are disclosed in paragraphs [0022] and [0041] of the specification. According to these features, the magnetoresistive element that detects the direction of the magnetic field, and the control unit that calculates the operational angle based on the output signal

from the magnetoresistive element, are integrated as an IC. This allows the device to have a small size, which is particularly advantageous when the device is mounted within the narrow confines of an automobile. It follows that the use of an undesirable separate large-sized electric circuit as described in Suzuki can be avoided by Applicants' invention. Furthermore, the IC configuration of the presently claimed invention also is advantageous in that it enables manufacturing costs to be reduced.

Claims 28 and 29 are dependent on claim 27 and are therefore believed to be allowable for the same reasons as for claim 27.

As to new claims 32, 33, and 34, and new claims 35, 36, and 37 that are respectively dependent thereon, it is Applicants' position that the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest a rotational angle detecting device that includes the limitations that (1) *each magnet has an arc-shaped configuration along a circumferential direction*, and (2) *the magnetoresistive sensor comprises an IC having a magnetoresistive element and a self-contained control unit*, as required by these new claims.

For all of the above reasons, it is submitted that the presently claimed invention is not disclosed or suggested by

the cited prior art, and that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) should be favorably reconsidered and withdrawn.

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If any issues remain that can be clarified by telephone, Examiner Whittington is encouraged to contact Applicants' Representative at the number indicated below.

Applicants hereby petition the Commissioner for Patents to extend the time for reply to the notice dated August 14, 2007, for one (1) month from November 14, 2007, to December 14, 2007. A duly completed credit card authorization form is attached to effect payment of the extension fee.

Respectfully submitted,
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